

MUGGING USING AUTO-RICKSHAWS

New security measures for passengers

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) has made the display of identity mandatory for the drivers in their vehicles to check the incidents of mugging using CNG-run auto-rickshaws.

The CMP traffic department took the decision on displaying the drivers' identity at a meeting on July 16 with the associations of owners and drivers of CNG-run auto-rickshaws as the incidents of mugging using the three wheelers are on the rise recently.

As per the decision, the drivers will display their identity in detail on a laminated paper in front of the passengers' seat in all the 13,000 CNG-run auto rickshaws by July 21.

It has proved effective in serving the purpose as it already has helped police to trace out some muggers who committed the crimes using a three-wheeler on August 5.

The laminated identity contains

driver and owner's names and their present and permanent addresses and contact numbers, their dates of birth, number of driving licence and phone numbers of police control room and traffic control room, sources said.

The owners will sign the chart along with the above mentioned information and inscribe phone numbers of both the police control room and the traffic control room on the front and back sides of the auto-rickshaws, said Assistant Commissioner (North) Md Mostak Ahmed of the traffic department.

About 40 incidents of mugging using CNG-run auto-rickshaws occurred in the port city last month.

In many of these cases, the drivers allegedly had link with the muggers, sources said.

Ashikul Hoque Bhuiyan, assistant commissioner (AC) of detective branch, said in some cases the passengers fell victim to mugging when the drivers slowed down or stopped their vehicles at an isolated area in the name of

mechanical glitch only to help the criminals apparently in a pre-planned way.

The muggers use CNG-run auto-rickshaws to escape easily after committing the crime that on many occasions on the busy streets causes accidents injuring the victims.

The muggers strangled Prity Ranjan Chakma, a motor vehicle inspector of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), on July 19 while he was going to Colonel Hat from Bohoddarhat in an auto-rickshaw.

But, many auto-rickshaws are yet to display the identity chart ignoring the decision.

Two incidents of mugging took place even after introduction of the identity chart. The muggers snatched away Tk 2 lakh from a shrimp trader in Saraipara area in the port city on August 2 and Tk 2 lakh from an account assistant of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC)-run CNG Filling Station in Wasa area on August 5.

The muggers of the August 5

incident could be traced out due to introduction of new system.

Meanwhile, the traffic police launched a drive against the auto-rickshaws without identity chart on July 23 and filed over 4000 cases so far, said Md Ilut Mish, AC (Traffic).

Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) Mohammad Ali Miah said, "The passengers would have to

bit careful to avoid such a crime and help arrest the muggers."

He called upon the passengers to see the identity chart immediately after getting on the auto-rickshaws and inform the police if they sense any incident of mugging.



A driver displays his identity chart in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw while others wait in queue in front of the traffic department office on Monday to deposit the money fined for not displaying identity chart, left.



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Research to find out climate-friendly tree species



NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences of Chittagong University (CU) has started a research to develop a management technique suitable for different species of forest trees at different zones considering the climate change in Bangladesh in future.

A detailed study for identifying and collecting the information about naturally adaptable, currently migrated species and exotic seed sources will be carried out.

It will also find out the seed germination techniques and nursery practices of selected forest tree species with higher temperature and higher moist condition from the normal settings.

The Institute is conducting the research under a project financed by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). It has also set up a computer aided Geographical Information System (GIS) and a tree propagation laboratory.

Prof Mohammed Al-Amin of the Institute is working as the principal investigator with a team of research students.

Prof Al-Amin said the average maximum temperature of Chittagong is 30.710C (Max. 38.50C), while 30.250C (Max. 37.60C) in Noakhali, 30.120C (Max. 38.10C) in Tangail and 31.180C (Max. 43.30C) in Rajshahi over the last 17 years.

Nevertheless, future climate change scenarios for Bangladesh show that in 2030 the temperature will increase by one degree centigrade that may

rise by 1.4 degrees centigrade in 2050 and 2.4 degrees centigrade in 2100 with lowest scenario, he said.

The rainfall changes in 2030, 2050 and 2100 might seen a rise of five, six and 10 per cent respectively.

"Many of the existing forest trees may not survive during the periods and the changes may hamper the existing forests to a great extent for which we start the research to find out the new species of trees adaptable to the changing climate" Prof Amin said.

He said according to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a 1.5 degrees centigrade increase in temperature is equivalent to a potential northward shift of 50 to 80 kilometres per decade or an altitude shift of 40-

55 metres per decade, which is also a threat to the existing forests in the country.

"We would find out how the national climate change scenarios can be applied to the regional to local level, which forest tree species is on the verge of extinction or low productivity due to loss of its favourable climate for growth, which species are invading naturally because of changing climate and which desirable species can exist or grow nicely with the climate change," he said.

The research also aims to develop the methodologies of nursery practices and seedling establishment procedures of selected suitable species considering the contribution of different forests of different climate zones with their special data while experiments will be carried out to choose environmentally, ecologi-

cally and economically feasible forest tree species.

At least seven crore people will be benefited of the project. The laboratory with propagation facilities and techniques will enrich 350 people, including 240 undergraduates, 40 postgraduates and 40 academic staffs every year, sources said.

Seventeen students of the institute are doing their Ph D, M Phil, M Sc (thesis) and undergraduate thesis under the project, they said.

Chand Sultana Khanam, an M Phil student under the project, said she is very happy with her research and the laboratories that would help them represent the forests of the country in the world arena.

The research is very necessary for the developing countries, said Mohammad Nasir Uddin

Khandakar, an M Sc student.

"Though this type of research work is first time in Bangladesh, its findings will help the researchers and forest related people to a great extent," he added.

Prof Amin said the immediate objectives of the project are to assess the present status of forest tree species and their natural regeneration, identify naturally alien species available in forest areas with their economic importance and the seed sources to collect the seeds for experiments.

The long-term objectives of the project include assessing the contribution of climate change scenarios on forest tree species of different regions and making maps showing specific areas, which will be suitable for a species until 2050 and 2100, he added.

Some plants at the laboratory of the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences of Chittagong University (CU). The Institute conducts a research on 'Future Climate-Friendly Tree Species' at its laboratory.

theweekthatwas

Aktel dealers meet

The dealers of Aktel in the city at a discussion on Thursday reviewed strategies to expand company's sale and customer-base in future.

Presided over by Sohail Ahmed, manager of AK Khan and Company (Telecom Division) of Chittagong Zone, the discussion titled "Aktel Dealers Meet" was also addressed by Nafizul Qadim, chief of the company's Channel Development and Dealer Management (CDDM), and Gayen Pradip, business consultant.

The Aktel officials expressed gratitude to the dealers' for their relentless and sincere efforts in building company's image to its subscribers.

View Finder Photographic Institute organised the meeting on Monday in observance of the ninth death anniversary of Beg at Shilpakala Academy with Sheikh Mohammad Jahangir, ad-hoc committee chairman of Chittagong Photographic Society (CPS), in the chair.

The speakers thanked the caretaker government for honouring Beg with the Ekushey Padak and urged the CG to observe his birth and death anniversary.

Veteran photographer Mortaza Toufiqul Islam, artist Ansar Ali, artist Moududul Alam, poet Nazimuddin Shyamol and institute member Suman Das also spoke at the meeting.

'Help prevent spread of AIDS'

Experts at a workshop emphasised the need for providing logistic support to the designated service centres and enhancing motivational campaign among the younger and juvenile generation to help prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS disease in the country.

"The government-designated

service centres across the country still lag behind as far as logistic support is concerned that stands in the way to check the spread of the fatal disease," they said at a workshop on "Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS)" at a local hotel on Monday.

"Besides, the youth and juvenile segments of the society, who are most vulnerable to the disease, haven't been incorporated effectively in the motivational campaign yet," the experts added.

Save the Children USA organised the regional workshop for representatives of implementing authorities and policymakers of the YFHS programme in Dhaka and Chittagong Division with Dr Saidur Rahman, director health of Chittagong Division, in the chair.

Funded by Global Fund, the programme is being implemented by Hasab (HIV/AIDS STD Alliance Bangladesh) Consortium, Ad-Deen, YPSA (Young Power in Social Action) and some other non-government organisations.

Dr ATM Mostafa Kamal, director of MCH Services, was present as the chief guest in the workshop. Dr AKM Shamsuddin, former additional

director general of health, Dr Fazlul Karim, director health of Dhaka Division, Dr Fadia Sultana, manager, response and coordinator, HIV/AIDS of Save the Children, USA, Arifur Rahman, chief executive of YPSA, Dr Nazneen Akhter, chairperson of Hasab Consortium, and Umme Hasina Akhter, director, family planning, Chittagong Division spoke at the workshop.

'Provide better service to clients'

A daylong workshop was held in the port city on Saturday with a call for providing better service to clients through modern and computerised banking system.

Bank Asia, Chittagong Zone organised the workshop on "Real Time Computerised Foreign Trade Management" at its Agrabad Corporate Branch Office.

The bank Senior Vice President and Manager Swapan Das Gupta inaugurated the workshop while the bank Head Office Computer System Analyst Mahub-A-Alam was the key speaker.

Speakers at the workshop said real time computerised foreign trade management has a significant role in the world banking system.

The bank officials AKM Shahnewas, Mohammad Shahabullah, Ali Tareq Parvez, Saiful Islam, Lohagara Branch Manager Mohammad Mohiuddin and Shabbir Ahmed Chowdhury attended the workshop.

Singers perform at a function titled 'Barshar Gaan' (song of rains), organised by Sangeet Bhaban, a cultural organisation, at Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) auditorium on Thursday.

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Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury speaks at a seminar organised by Chittagong Journalists Forum Dhaka (CJFD) at the Chittagong Bhaban auditorium in the capital on Sunday. Sitting on his left are CJFD General Secretary M Sayem Tipu and President Shahinul Islam Chowdhury, Major General (Retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim, Chittagong Samity former president Azizul Haque Chowdhury and Engineer Ali Ashraf.

UITS, IEB sign MoU

University of Information Technology and Science (UITS) and Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong Chapter signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Friday.

Speakers at the signing ceremony

said the MoU will help the would-be engineers in improving coordination, supervision and developing the quality and techniques of jobs.

They said at the same time the Master of Business Administration course will be effective for the engineers to build themselves as a good administrator.

UITS board of governors President Sufi Mohammad Mizanur Rahman and IEB Chittagong chapter Chairman Engineer Ali Ashraf signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations at the UITS Library auditorium.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA)

former Chairman AMM Shahadat Hossain, Engineer Khorshed Alam, Nurul Karim, Abul Khasem, Prof Dr Mohammad Solaiman and Prof Dr SR Hilali were present at the signing ceremony.

Reception to freshers

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) acting mayor M Manjur Alam on Saturday underscored the need for ensuring education for all to steer the

country towards progress and prosperity.

He also called upon all guardians to help their wards continue education at any cost and help take up the responsibility of bringing the nation out of social superstitions in future.

The acting mayor was addressing as the chief guest a reception to freshers and meritorious students of Saraipara School and College on the college premises.

Saraipara Ward Commissioner and the school and college govern-

ing body Vice President Shamsul Alam presided over the function while Principal Prof Mohammad Mosharrif Hossain, CCC Chief Education Officer Prof Rawshan Akhter Hanif, Woman Ward Commissioner Rehana Kabir Ranu and Kaptasgola City Corporation College Principal Prof Chowdhury Manjurul Haque spoke.

He said construction of the new building of the school and college will begin soon.